THE ERIE RING.

The Confession of a Bohemian Spy.

AN ATTEMPT TO BLACKMAIL ERIE

How Vice President Fisk Would Subsidize the Herald.

ERIE TRIES TO OWN PUBLIC OPINION.

Jay Gould, F. A. Lane and O. H. P. Archer Would Pass the Classification Bill.

Mr. Lane Becomes an Editorial Writer for the Herald.

How Money is Paid for "Legal Services."

The English Stockholders To Be Held Up to Public Ridicule.

York Press.

Erie Means to Own the New

Vaulting Ambition Over-

leaps Itself. The Bohemian Spy and Black-

mailer Tells His Own Story.

The Robemian Spy Gives a History of Eric. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-

It is now several years since the present mana-ters, with one exception, obtained control of the Frie Railroad, by what is generally understood to have been tricky and fraudulent means. During that time they have succeeded by degrees in getting trol that its rightful owners—the stockholders ave been debarred the privilege of ascertaining by the road have been spent, and the door has been completely shut against them at every atempt to pry into the management of those now popularly designated the "Erie Ring." Courts have been resorted to and Legislatures ap. pealed to in vain. Vast sums of money have been spent in the legal endeavor to unlock the hidden only laughed at all these efforts to circumvent their es, and have hidden behind their strong bulwark of money, and, shaking that potent influence in the face of the stocknolders, have defiantly bidden them to anyance, well knowing that they possessed a power against which, in the past days of legislative and legal corruption, all the force the stockholders could bring to bear upon them would be as the feeble force of the old wooden gunship of past ages against the almost invulnerable iron-clad of the present day. People wondered how this corrupt use such yest sums of money for their private pur-pose in so open and barefaced a manner. They have heard whispers about how the press, the these have been nothing more than whispers, some times very loud ones, to be sure, and the people definite charges of their rascalities cannot be made against this Ring and and the gang of rascals ousted from their positions and made to pay the penalties of ence on many of the bad, weak men who have for years past made and executed our laws, and the poor stockholders had almost despaired of reaping victory over their enemies and of obtaining pospended their money. But one day a new hope broke in upon them. The strong wall that had for years eld up this defiant Ring suddenly crumbled and tell to pieces and the enemy was at last but on the other side, and now the poor neeced owners of many millions of dollars' worth of rely rout their enemies-horse, foot and dragoons-and to obtain possession of the stronghold

has been my good fortune to be able to hely pull away the wall behind which the gang of Eric robbers have for years been skulking. By a seeming acquiescence in their schemes to obtain a new tease of life I have been enabled admitly to draw out of them many of their secrets and to get an insight into the modus operandi by which they have so long ocen able to maintain their career of corruption. The information I have obtained may not be palatable to certain managers of newspapers in this city, and will compel then to come out boldly and prove their innocence, or skirts. It will also compel the Legislature to inquire now it is that the Ring are cognizant of every imterests, and, further, by what means they obtain copies of all bills presented as soon as they are offered. It will compel that body to institute an inquiry into the agement of the Eric Railroad and to acquaint the stockholders as to what dispo has been made of the vast sums of money that have way to their pockets. If my efforts shall result in bringing the Eric Ring to justice I shall be happy in the knowledge of having acted the deceptive in a HOW THE PRINCE OF ERIE BECAME AN ALLY OF THE

It is with regret that the proper recital of this the late James Fisk, Jr., before the public in cor nection with a most disreputable transaction.
When I first had the necessary interview with him he was as hale and hearty and cracked his jokes and made his original humor ons remarks with great gusto. He was always ed to see me, treated me politely, and transacted our business in the most expeditious manner. I had no idea that when I came to write the history of his connection with this attempted bribing affair that I should have to speak of the doings of a dead favors during the last few years of his life-favors that I never neglected an opportunity of reciprocat ing by notices in the press of his movements and doings. They always pleased him, and I felt not a little satisfaction in being able to minister to his I would gladly omit relating the part Mr. Fisk took in the affair, the particulars of which I am about to relate; but necessity compels me to use his name, or leave the story altogether untold. Justice to ever, cries to me to expose what I know of the vilanies of the Eric Ring, and I am, therefore, reluc tantly compelled to add to this recital the part the dead Vice Presiden; of the road took in the attempt to muzzle the most powerful member of the metro-

exect, to expect the settlement of a bill due to an ivening newspaper for advertising. I was encusted with this duty for the reason that the bill trusted with this duty for the reason that the bill had been disputed by a gentleman who has charge of the advertising, and as I had produced the advertisement from Mr. Pisk in person I was naturally considered the most competent party to explain the terms under which it was to be inserted. Upon my arrival at the offices I sent my name in to Mr. Pisk, arrival at the offices I sent my name in to Mr. Fisk, who immediately granted me an audience. After a snort explanation I procured a settlement of the bill, and was about to depart when Mr. Fisk called me aside and, after a few preliminary remarks, made me the following proposition, almost in these words:—"Wilcox," said ne, leaning his elbow on the wide window-sill and looking out into Eighth avenue, "Wilcox, I'm afraid we are going to Eighth avenue, "Wilcox, I'm afraid we are going to get into a scrape with those Englishmen, and I want you to help me out. You see, the Legislature is about to meet, and I suppose they will do all in their power to get the Classification act repealed and to hoist us from our position. Now we don't propose to be put out in that sort of a way if we can help it, and one of the first things we want to do is to control public opinion. Those Englishmen have given us a damned sight of trouble and will continue to do so, I suppose, till one or t'other of us gets licked. Now, as I said before, we are going to head them off if we can and to turn the tables on them and to show them up to be a pack of the damnedest rascais that ever put up a job. But we have got to control public opinion. You have time, and know the editors and how to manage them. Now, what I would like you to do is, to see if you can't buy them up for us, so as to stop their howling on the side of the Englishmen and to howl THE BOILEMIAN SEES A GOLDEN VISION.

I confess that the remarks of the now dead Vice whether to feet flattered or insulted. I said nothing of looking out into Eighth avenue. Everything was lively there, but I did not see much of what was going on in the street, there was so much going in my head. I, however, thought rapidly, and concluded to encourage the thing along, for my reportorial ex-perience suggested that there was a chance for an immense sensation not far away; besides, who knew but that I should some day immortalize my-self by being the medium of showing up some of Mr. Gould's eye upon me also, and I therefore con-cluded that he too was a party to the cunningly devised plan to get ahead of those "blarsted Brit-ishers" who were fighting for their rights, and to ing concluded to encourage the attempted conspiracy, I turned to Mr. Fisk and replied—

"I am pretty well acquainted with the employes of the Herald; but with the editors of the other city papers I am not at all intiliate. I could not help you much on them."

WHAT THE PRINCE OF BRIE THOUGHT OF THE HERALD,

"Well," replied Fish, brightening up, apparently pleased with the supposition that I would enter into the conspiracy "to help them out of the sorape," "well, the Herald would afford us about all the help we should need. The Herald is an immense if we can only manage to secure its influence on our side, why, damn it, all the other papers might howl away as much as they liked. Now you go to work and see what you can do. We will pay you well. If you want any help just let me know. You may want have them. Go to work at once, and if you can do will lay our plans. You can telegraph me direct from 241 Broadway, and a despatch will reach me here, probably, as late as four o'clock. See the HERALD men and let me know how much we can

I had by this time concluded to act the part of an apparent conspirator, and to enrol myself as a member of the gang of Eric robbers. But I wanted a larger field. I was, of course, greatly pleased that Mr. Fisk's idea of the HERALD's power coincided with my own, but if I were to go into the business of buying up newspapers I wanted to make transactions by the wholesale. I knew it would take a large amount to buy the Herald, but well buy up all the other morning papers at once, get through with my job in a nice, clean manner, pocket my commissions and buy a few ratiroads myself. Accordingly I urged upon Mr. Fisk the necessity of securing the other morn-

The Colonel offered me a cigar. I never smoke: heart to refuse. Besides, it was not everybody who could have the honor of being proffered a real Par-I went out of the Erie offices with a Why should I have not? Had I not laid the foundation for an immense not fail to totter the evil power from its throne and place in the hands of its owners property of the a newspaper man I had reaped glory enough for ong and deeply as to the course I ought to pursue I should have to work carefully, for the members would, doubtless, watch me very closely. At any rate I would wait for a day, as if "trying my hand," and would then seek the Prince of Erie again. Accordingly, on the afternoon of the day succeeding that went to the office of the Narragansett Steamship Company, which connected directly by telegraph onire whether Mr. Fisk was in. The reply came back that he was still at the office. I then telegraphed him the following despatch:-

"When and where can I see you this evening on In a few moments the operator handed in the

"Meet me at 313 West fwenty-third street at seven o'clook.

J. F., Jr."

This despatch is still in my possession. At six o'clock I arrived at the Grand Central Hotel, my place of residence, and prepared to fortify myself with a hearty supper, preliminary to calling on the Prince of Erie at his residence in Twenty-third street. Upon entering the hotel I was met by a messenger, who informed me "That as Mr. Fisk was to make a social call on friends at the hotel during the evening he would also see me there and save me the trouble of going to Twenty-

THE PRINCE OF ERIE CALLS ON THE BOHRMIAN SPY I was greatly pleased at Mr. Pisk's consideration and went to supper. I had scarcely commenced operations upon a piece of cold chicken when in and sat down. I invited him to take supper with me, but he had just dined, and begged to be extrance had created quite an excitement among the good people, who had not expected to have Colonel Pisk for supper. The waiters have ever since looked upon me with a feeling of awe, no doubt thinking me a very distinguished person.
"I will be through in a few minutes Colonel," said

"and will then see you in the parlor." He was, however, in somewhat of a hurry. Could I eat and listen at the same time? I could perform that feat without difficulty.

THE PRINCE COUNTS THE COST.

"Very well," said Mr. Pisk, clearing the plates out of the way. "Now, what I have got to say is this___" But I need not state what it was. I promised to flave his ideas embodied in our article in the Herald. He was willing to pay what it would cost. Taking a piece of paper from his pocket he proceeded to furnish me with points for an article. He said that the Englishmen did not want the Eric road for the purpose of improving either its condition or man-agement, but that they desired it solely for the pur-pose of making a connection with the Atlantic and Great Western road, the stock of which was princihe well to make the idea prominent in my About the middle of last December I called at the efficiency of the Eric Ranway Company, in Twenty-third versing with him some time he took his leave, first,

satisfying himself that I had got the whole scheme him with a general plan of the campaign we were to commence against the public, the English bond-holders and the members of the Legislature, and to ascertain the amount the Erie Company would have to pay for the services which the Herald would

render.
HOW ERIE ESTIMATES THE VALUE OF A NEWS-PAPER. Upon this latter point I wished him to give me a

hint as to how he would prefer to pay.
"Give us an estimate as to how much the editors

them in that way," said he. "But suppose we give them a salary—put their names on the pay roll," said I, desiring to get at the manner in which the road did things of that de-

The Colonel played with a knife and fork for a few moments, apparently in deep thought. At last ne replied:—

"No," said he, "I don't think that will do. You trouble themselves about getting much in for us, but if we pay them by the line, why, the more they

will write as much as they can." Finally the Colonel left me to my cold cnicken, and I soon after departed for the office. I had not made up my mind as to bow I was to get the article in, but I was determined to accompilsh my object in some manner, for unless I managed to get the Colone's views in print he would think me unable to do anything toward accomplishing my object, and would therefore drop me before I could carry out my scheme. At any rate I determined to draw the city editor into my plans if I could get an article printed in no other way; but at first I resolved to try to persuade him to give the Erie people a chance to put in a detence before I uncovered my plans.
THE SPY DIGS HIS FIRST PARALLEL AT THE HERALD
CITADEL.

Fortunately upon reaching the office 1 found the city editor in the best of humor. I at once com-menced to plead for Erie. I told him that I thought the officials of the road ought to have a chance defend themselves against the accusations that had him that I would write an article that would ex-press the views of the Erie managers fairly; for afternoon, who had imparted to me his views, I could give the Erie officials' side of the story just as they saw it themselves. So strongly did I set forth these reasons that he finally consented to let me write an article of about half a column in length, bidding me not to commit the paper, but to express the sentiments as those of the Erie magnates and not as those of the paper. Accordingly I set to work, and the result was that on the 24th of December there appeared in the Herald an article headed, "The Eric War—The Erie Company's Side of the Story."

and were expressed as concisely as possible.

THE SPY OPENS A REGULAR SIEGE ON THE CITADEL.

My scheme so far worked very nicety. I knew i should be able to draw the Erie files into my net, for I had shown that I was able to help them, apparently, and they would doubtless trust me further. Accordingly, a few tlays after the appearance of the above-mentioned article in the HERALD, I made myself visible to the Vice President of the I made myself visible to the vice Fresident of the Eric Railroad Company, at the elegant offices in Twenty-third street. My reception was very cordial. The Colonel smiled as he shook hands with me, and said that "that article was a damned good one; just what he wanted." I replied that I was glad it had pleased him. He had a number of people waiting to see him on business, and I took a chair beside his desk, at his request, until he should be at leisure. In a short time he announced himself

ready to proceed to business.
"In the first place," said he, leaning on the wide nue, "let us get at the cost of this thing. How much can you get the business done for a line-

I had, of course, consulted no one in either of those departments, so that I could give no correct estimate of the "cost of the thing." However I concluded that one or two hes told in so good a cause would be forgiven, so I replied:—
"I think I can get the articles in the city depart-

ment done for \$3 a line, and articles on the editorial page for about six dollars a line."

"That is a little steep," replied the Colonel. "You had better strike them for a basis of \$2 50 a line in

the city department, and give the fellows in the editorial department \$5 a line. That will pay them

I replied that I would do the best I could. This point settled, my next move was to see how the supposed that they would want to "work" Albany in some manner, so I suggested that Albany be looked

THE BOHEMIAN SPY TRIES TO MAKE A CAPTURE. "Tnat's a good idea," coincided the Colonel, yet made up our minds as to how we shall do it. Do you know who are to go up as correspondents

I replied that I did not know whether they had yet been positively appointed, but I understood that Messrs. K. and M. were to be there during the

"Do you know them?" asked Mr. Fisk. "Intimately," I replied.
"Do you think you could manage them?" he pur-

to assure him that I thought I could.

of course, to carry out my scheme I was obliged

"Well," he continued, after a short deliberation "we shall probably want you to look after them for ture meets. We may want you to go to Albany, and we may not. At any rate we will decide on that hereafter. You keep on working and do what you can. I will give you a check for the article that ap-

ERIE SUPPLIES THE FIRST ROUND OF AMMUNITION. Upon concluding the above remarks Mr. Fisk went to the desk of his private secretary and in structed him to make out a voucher for \$200. In a moment it was filled in and signed by Mr. Fisk, who handed it to me, saving,

peared a day or two ago, and then you can see

Come again to-morrow and report progress."

Here I was bribed, as Mr. Fisk thought, sure for the present, and bide my time to clear my conscience and show my true position in the matter, So I took the voucher and departed. It was simply made "advertising," no other explanauon being given. If this is the manner in which accounts are paid by the company, thought I, surely the officials have a loose way of doing business, and it is no wonder that such large amounts are paid out without any one knowing where the money goes. All it requires, apparently, to draw hundreds of thouvoucher, with the Comptroller's name at the bot-tom. The poor fleeced stockholders of the Eric Company can see from this transaction now recklessly the affairs of the road are managed by the

THE SPY OPENS A SECOND PARALLEL. My next call was at the treasurer's office, down stairs. Here I met Captain B. W. Spencer, the cashier of the company, of whom I inquired for Mr. White. The gentleman was not in, but the Captain said it mattered not, for he would attend to my business nimself. Presenting the voucher, he immediately ordered a check made out for \$200. The check was drawn to his order, and consequently he endorsed it to mine, at the same time saying that if I wished to draw the amount he would guarantee my endorsement. Thinking that there might be some trick devised to entrap me I thought it best to present the check for payment in order to assure myself that the Erie magnates were not playing me laise. Accordingly the check was duly endorsed and presented by me to the paying teller of the Market Bank, upon which it was drawn. The sum of \$200 was immediately counted out and I departed to lay up my treasure until my whole scheme should be carried out, when the money would be returned to the treasurer of the Erie Hallway Company. I retired to rest that night with the proud satisfaction of

THE SPY OPENS A THIRD PARALLEL.

The holidays and the sudden lilless of Mr. Plak

made the progress of my scheme for the next week rather slow. The Colonel informed me that after Christmas ne would be ready to put things through in a lively manner, and wished me to be on hand for business the first of the holday week. I called on him as he desired, but, being unable to see me on account of sickness, I did but little in the matter. After New Year he began to recover, when I again commenced operations. I saw him frequently, at his request, at his offices in the Eric Building. He said he wanted me to keep the herald from saying anything arainst the road or the officials, out to get in all the articles possible in their favor. The plan he laid out was somewhat as follows:—In the first place he desired me to get the Engish stockholders written down as much as possible. He believed that by having the idea kept before the public that they would run the road for English interests, and not for the benealt of the American stockholders, it would be of great service to them. He also wanted articles written praising the condition and management of the road, especially calling attention to the fact, as he expressed it, that the company had spent vast sums on the improvement and equipment of the road, while they had also built large and expensive ferrivoous, and in other ways expended vast sums for the purpose of benefiting the traveling public. He also informed me that they also intended getting up a large number of public meedings along the line of the road, to make it appear that the people through whose section of country the Eric passed were greatly pleased with its management and desired the continuance in office of its present managers. These meetings he desired to have written up as fully as possible. This, in substance, was his scheme, so har as this city was concerned. Albany they wanted taken particular care of. He said they by "they" i presume a meant the Eric Ring, bestred me to see the albany correspondents of the Heriald, and the road of the road ware in the first and the read of the questio

JAY GOULD TAKES COMMAND OF THE OPERATIONS-

THE SPY'S ORATION OVER THE DEED PRINCE OF ERIE.

The curtain now fails on the acts of Mr. Fisk in the Erie drama. I had seen him upon the subject for the last time. The buillet of the assassin had completed his career upon carth, and James Fisk, Jr., would be seen in the Vice President's chair at the Erie office no more. It is not for me to pass a panegyric upon the virtuee of the deceased. I had seen much of him, and, while I had discovered in him all the elements of one of the most cunning schemers that probably ever existed, I had also found him a man of kind heart and a most encertain companion. But his death put a temporary stop to the carrying out of my scheme to discover some of the villanies of the Erie Ring, and I therefore did nothing further for nearly two weeks after his death.

One morning I concluded to visit the Erie offices,

of the villanes of the Eric King, and I therefore did nothing further for nearly two weeks after his death.

One morning I concluded to visit the Eric offices, ostensibly to ascertain whether there were any items regarding the future action of the directors in the management of the road to be picked up. Accordingly I paid my respects to Mr. Fisk's late private secretary, presuming that once inside the offices the old negotiations would be renewed. Nor was I diappointed, as the sequel will show. After conversing with him a few moments, I remarked that if Mr. Gould were not busy I should like to see him, as there might be some matters which he would like to communicate to the press. Possibly he would like to renew the old negotiations. The ex-secretary returned with the remark that Mr. Gould was busy for a few moments, but he suggested that I see Mr. Archer, the newly elected Vice President of the road, in place of the late Mr. Fisk. The ex-secretary had a few minutes' private conversation with Mr. Archer would be glad to carry out the ideas of the late Mr. Fisk. The ex-secretary had a few minutes' private conversation with Mr. Archer would be glad to carry out the ideas of the late Mr. Fisk. Mr. Archer then insisted upon my seeing Mr. Gould, being apparently greatly pleased at an opportunity. "To carry out the ideas of the late Mr. Fisk. Mr. Archer then insisted upon my seeing Mr. Gould, being apparently greatly pleased at an opportunity. "To carry out the ideas of the late Mr. Fisk had oncorress with him regarding the "business" I was doing for him and that he had approved of it. He was very anxious that the articles—particiarly the editorials—for which Mr. Fisk had negotiated should be secured. He would have me some "points" prepared, and if would call on Wednesday (it was then Monday) the articles desired would be more fully discussed.

KRIE writers A "Herrald Ebrick Line" Happy in the knowledge that my scheme was again promisingly under way I entered the office of the Eric Ring on the ensuing Wednesday with

"good morning" from Mr. Gould, sat down to await his leisure. Presently he came over to me, shook hands cordially, and announced that Mr. Lane would prepare sate articles for me, which would be ready on the following morning. Mr. Lane now joined us. I found him a courteous and social man, in a few minutes he bocame confidential. He was quite certain that McHenry & Co. were a pack of theires, who desired to steal the Erie Railway for the purpose of furthering their own schemes to make money. He assured me that the Classification law was a necessity; that it existed in England and in several of the United States, and further produced a pamphile containing copies of the laws. He was sure he had the whole subject at his finger ends. Mr. Gould suggested that ne first prepare an editorial giving the history of classification laws. Mr. Lane amended Mr. Gould's motion by adding that such an article would do provided a little puff for themselves could be tacked on the end of it. The amendment was accepted by Mr. Gould, who thought that they could then go on with other articles denouncing the attempt to repeal the Classification act and stigmanizing the proposed law allowing the Attorney General to overnaul the books of all corporations at his pleasure as an outrage. The interview ended with an assurance from Mr. Lane that the first article would be ready for me at twelve o'clock on the following day, at which hour I was to call for it.

F. A. LANE ASSUMES AN IMPORIANT COMMAND. I was there on time and so were Mossys. Lane and Gould. I now began to look upon the former as the party with whom I was to do my business, for he seemed to have been constituted a committee to bribe the press, probably because, as he atterwards told me, "he had been thirty years in the ousness and understood it perfectly." Mr. Lane backed me up in one of the large easy chairs belonging to the offices in a corner at the end of Mr. Gould's desk. Then ne put himself in annother directly in front of me. His next move was to produce his editorial, hea

never permit such an article to appear on its educiral page; but Mr. Lane did not, so he was easily deceived.

How the spy regulled Field-Marshal Lane. At this stage of my narrative it is necessary to state that I was then fooling Lane very nicely. This is how I did it. On my first interview with him and Gould I stated that I nad "seen" one of the editorial staff of the Herald, and had made a satisfactory "arrangement" with him. They demanded his name. Here was a dilemma. I did not wish to implicate any one with me la my seneme, but I did not see how I was to avoid it. It is true I could have used a fictitious name, but then It occurred to me that the cunning foxes I was dealing with might test my succrity by inquiring whether the party named by me or my supposed accomplice was really a member of the editorial staff of the Herald or one. Consequently, I took the liberty of naming Mr. P., an old and highly honorable member of the staff, as the party who was to assist me in securing the insertion of the editorial articles. It was to nim that I told Mr. Lane I would submit his article, who would secure the insertion in its present form, or, if necessary, would modify it, but only as little as possible, I made an appointment to meet Mr. Lane at his lower office, No. 139 Broadway, at three o'clock that afternoon, to apprise him as to whether the article would be likely to go in the Herald, it having been understood that I was to see Mr. — in the meantime. The Sty Changes His Name.

"Go right into my inside office," said Mr. Lane, "When you get there, tell the clerk you are Mr. Johnson, and have an appointment with me at three o'clock. They would probably not let you in liness you did so. I will leave word that if Mr. Johnson calls he is to be admitted at once,"

Three o'clock iound me at Mr. Lane's office. The gentieman was not in, but I was requested to wait, as new as expected shortly. Was I Mr. Johnson I was. Ab, then, I must step right into Mr. Lane's should be almed to the same and the band be almed to be defin

done?"
We were getting rather intimate, as will be perceived by the familiar manner in which the great schemer of Eric addressed me.
"I have seen my man," I replied, "and he will

look over the article and do the best he can with it." "But we want it used at once," said Mr. Lane, a little impatiently, "Things are getting warm at Albany and we must work up our case as rapidly as resulting."

Albany and we must work up our case as rapidly as possible."

I assured him I would hurry matters as much as was consistent.

Field-Marshal. Lane becomes impatient and offers his Military opinion as to "A fire in the read of the his him become aware that when he bit his thumb nail before he made any further remarks. I had by this time become aware that when he bit his in humb nail there was something important on hand. I was not mistaken. The thamb biting process through with, he then opened "business" in a new direction.

"I have been thinking that this idea of controlling the editorial department of the Herald wift net amount to much so long as those fellows at Albany keep up a fire in the rear. Now, to do this thing as it ought to be done we should have the whole paper in harmony with has. I suppose you know the correspondents at Albanys"

I knew them intimately.

"Very well," he continued: "now, the best thing you can do is to go up and see them. Make an arrangement with them whereby we can control them, for, to tell you the truth, I don't think the editorial articles would be worth a cent unless the Albany articles were in harmony. Can you go up?"

"It will take time and money," I suggested.

the Alcahy articles with money," I suggested.

"It will take time and money," I suggested.

"Gh, wei, you can take the time. How much money do you want?

"About a hundred dollars will do," I replied.

"Very well. Now, when can you go?" said ne.

"It is now two o'clock. Can you get off on the four cyclock train?"

"Very well. Now, when can you go?" said he. "It is now two o'clock. Can you get off on the four o'clock train?"

"Perhaps," I repiled. "If not I would go up in the morning." I had, however, no such intention, for it being Friday, I correctly supposed the Legislature would adjourn until Monday, and the correspondents would very likely come home in the evening train to remain until that time. I had made up my mind that I would have to enlist them in my services for a few days until the comoletion of my services for a few days until the comoletion of my services for a few days until the comoletion of my services for a few days until the comoletion of my services for a few days until the comoletion of my services for a few days until the comoletion of my services for a few days until the comoletion of my services for a few days until the completion. It is unnecessary to state that, naving worked the job up so successfully to its present stage, I was very desirous of bringing it to a completion.

I arose to go.

"Wait a minute," said Mr. Lane, "and I will give you an order for your expenses."

PIELD-MARSHAL LANE FURNISHES ANOTHER ROUND OF AMMUNITION.

As here was another chance to see how the Riug managed such matters I very willingly waited. The order read thus:—

Mr. White:—

Please give bearer \$100 for expenses and charge to legal account.

"Present that to Mr. White," said the counsellor.

of for me."

I replied that I had an order on Mr. White,
"it's for \$100, isn't it." inquired the Captain.
Ho, ho, thought I, Mr. Lane has been inquiring to
see whether I am going to A'bany or no.
"Give me the order," said Spencer: "it's all the
same."

the prices high, particularly that at which we were to buy the Albany correspondents.

An idea struck me. Perhaps here would be chance to ascertaic what arrangements the Ring had made for apprising themselves as to what was transpiring at Albany.

"But suppose," I urged, "that the correspondents should agree to supply us with secret information respecting the way the members of the Legislature think upon matters relating to Erie. They know many of them intumately, and could perhaps ascertain even how they intend to vote on the repeal of the classification bill."

Mr. Lane smiled as it amused at my simplicity. "I don't care a damn about any information on that point," said he; "we know all about such matters already. We have a man there whose business is to attend to that matter and nothing else. There is not a vote cast on any measure affecting our interests that we do not know on which side the majority will rest beforehand. This man taps the wires, and the information is transmitted to us secretly." FIBLD-MARSHAL LANE HAS THE LEGISLATURE ALL.

FIELD-MARSHAL LANE HAS THE LEGISLATURE ALL RIGHT.

Here was some important information gained in an unguarded moment on the part of Mr. Lane. But I wanted more.

"Suppose, then," suggested I, "that they give you a rough draft of the bills that are presented by the members of the Legislature. You know something might be slipped into these bills detrimental to your interests, even in an apparently harmiess measure, and as correspondents have access to all bills offered they could keep an eye open for your interests and post you whenever anything suspicious was discernible".

Mr. Lane cave me another of his knowing looks.

miterests and post you whenever anything suspicious was discernicle?"

Mr. Lane gave me another of his knowing looks.

"That, too, would be superfluous information," he replied. "We get a copy of every bill presented to the Legislature as soon as it is offered. We have got that thing all fixed to our satisfaction."

Finding that I had already spent more time with Mr. Lane than I had intended I proposed to leave the matter open until the next morning, to which proposition he assented.

"Don't wait for me around in Mr. Gould's office," said he, as I arose to go. "Come right into the directors' room and remain until I can have a chance to fix up matters."

THE BOHEMIAN IN THE MARBLE HALLS—BUT NO DINNER.

chance to fix up matters."

The Bohemian in The Marble Halls—but no Dinner.

The next morning I was on hand poinctual to the hour appointed. Presently Mr. Lane came in and asked me to wait until ne could get the dining room opened, so that we could have a place in which to talk where we would be unobserved as wen as uninterrupted. The dining room—many of the readers of this article may not be aware—is situated in the Erie building, on the same floor with the office of the President of the company. It is a large room, elegantly furnished, and contains a long table, capable of seating some twenty-five or thirty people. It is surrounded by large easy chairs, the uphoistered backs of which are relieved by the monogram, in golden letters, of the Erie Railroad—"E. R. R." Attached to this room is a first class restaurant, presided over by an experienced French cook. It is here that the Erie magnates sit at their case and dine on all the delicacles of the season.

It was to this room that Mr. Lane led me. The table oriestled with elegant cut glass gooblets, shining china and highly polished silver. It was all prepared for the Erie connoisseur when ready to dine. We sat down at one end of the table, Mr. Lane drawing his chair close to mine as if prepared for business in reality. A French cook stuck his head in at the door. At Mr. Lane's command it was quickly closed and the Frenchman departed, "Now," said Mr. Lane, "I want to talk business. I have thought over this whole matter and have talked to Gould about it, but be leaves it all to me. What I want you to do is this. See — and buy him over on our side. I want the whole gang to I had rather expend \$100,000 to do the thing properly than to invest \$1,000 and have it only maden. The see iten thousand dollars," I replied. "Ten thousand dollars," coglisated ne, "Let me see: ten thousand dollars," coglisated ne, "Let me see

"Not less than ten thousand dollars," I replied.
"Ten thousand dollars," cogitated he. "Let me see; ten thousand each for him and —; hve thousand a piece for each of the Albany men—that makes thirty thousand in all. Now, I have got it all down. Very well, we will do nothing more about this matter until you see —. I want the editorial and the correspondents' department to work together, or else the first thing, you know, when we have got the Albany men all right, out will come a slasning editorial and knock everything into pl.

HOW FIELD-MARSHAL LANE WAS BETRATED BY A BOHEMIAN SIY IN THE TRIBONE.

HOW FIRLD-ARCHIAN SPY IN THE TRIBUNE.

I have some experience in such matters, and i

and I do not mean to be again. Once I had the Tribune correspondence all fixed. Everything came down in the letter as slick as could be, when one day out came a fearful editorial assault on us and knocked all the correspondent had done for us into pleces. I do not want to elunder again, so you see — and get him fixed, and meet me here at ten o'clock to-morrow morning. By the way, be sure and Bring that editorial I gave you along with you. I do not think you can me it."

Mr. Lane's remarks regarding — requires explanation. The way he became connected with the affair was this:—Mr. —— is our editorial writer on the Herald, who, during the present session of the Legislature, has had craarge of Albany matters. He is on duty at hight, and when the Albany despaticles come in he looks over them and makes what editorial comments he deems proper in the premises. Once or twice, while I was completing my negotiations with the Ring.

Inad come out with editorials not at all complimentary to those whom I was trying to draw into my net, and had made it more difficult for me to complete my scheme. I was obliged to state to Mr. Lane how this article got into the papers, and for the same reasons that induced me to give—true name I gave that of—mr. Lane at once saw the importance of securing Mr. Lys services; hence his desire to have me "see" him. Of course to carry out my plan I should have to emist Mr.— in my cause, so I did "see" him, but not in the manner implied by Mr. Lane's remarks. Mr.— rejuctantly promised to keep quiet for a lew days. I had now got all the people on my side necessary, and I therefore sought the prime schemer of the Ring next morning, as per appointment.

Erife Course the Coarry out my plan is nould have the Director's room.

"Well," said he, shaking hands, "Pve talked the matter over with Gould and he authorizes me to make the following proposition:—We will give eaon of the Albany men \$1,250 dolars for the same period. That is what I am authorized to offer by Gould. Now, on my own responsionity, I will

Mr. Lane's eyes brightened, and he looked at me wistfully.

"It would be an immense thing for us," he replied. "Do you think you could possibly manage it? Suppose you try? See what you can do, and meet me at my lower office this lafternoon."

I did not like this long delay, for the Ring were getting the benefit of the Herald's silence, when I knew they deserved its condemnation.
"But can't you decide about the matter of paying the men what they ask? Your offer is a small one, and I am sure they will not accept it. They have already done you good service, and you ought to be more liberal."

"That's so," replied Lane, musingly. "I'll tell you what Pil do, I will give you \$500 for them to-day. Take that and distribute it around the best you can, and meet me at my office this afternoon."

prised me not a little, after the course pursued towards you on the editorial page. Did it cost you
anything?"

"Well, you see, we know how to manage these
things," was Mr. Lane's reply, in that pecuniar way
of his that meant more than he said.

Shife anxious you file surrended in over a period of about two weeks. My colaborers were almost daily bidding me to get
through with my scheme, as the paper could not
afford to pursue such a passive policy on so important a matter in the Erie frauds. It was with a
determination to close up matters at once that I
wended my way to the Erie building on the morning
of the 12th instant. I met Mr. Lane, who told me he
could do no better for me, as the Board
had refused to increase the sums offered, and he
del not leel like paying any additional amount out
of his private funds. He said if I would accept the
terms offered he would have the checks drawn up
for one-quarter of the amounts, signed and ready
for me on the following morning. As the checks
were all I wanted to complete the evidence of the
altempted smomering of public opinion, I agreed to
his terms.

"Peter!" yelled Mr. Lane, as soon as the bargain
was completed.

Peter was a clerk, who hastened to do his

was completed.
Peter was a cierk, who hastened to do his
master's bidding.
"" Peter " min Mr Lane. "I want you to draw up

live voucners. Two for three hundred and seventy live dollars each, and one for three hundred and first dollars each, and one for three hundred dollars. Have then ready for signature to-morrow morning. Mr. Lane placed the separate amounts down on a piece of paper, and handed it to Peter, who departed. The voucher for three hundred dollars was for the article that appeared in the Heraldo on the morning of Mr. Fisk's death, and which Mr. Gould had said must be paid for as agreed upon by Mr. Fisk.

THE SPY SEES VICTORY.

On Thesday morning, the 13th inst. I paid my last visit to the headquarters of the Erie ring. The vouchers had been signed and the checks were at the desk of Mr. White in the Treasury Department. Peter was sent after them. They were drawn to the order of B. W. Spencer, cashier of the company, who had endorsed them to Mr. Lane's order. Seizing appen the latter wrote his name on the back of them. Peter dried the signatures with a blotter, and, in response to a wave of the hand of Mr. Lane, gave me the checks. The following are facsimiles of these unpaid pieces of paper:—
THE AMMUNITION FURNISHED BY FIRLD MARSHAL LANE.

No. 9453. New York, Feby 12th, 1872.

NEW YORK, Feby 12th, 1872. TENTH NATIONAL BANK. 348 Broadway, cor. Leonard street. Pay to the order of B. W. Spencer, Cashier, Sever hundred and fifty Dollars. \$750. J. D. WHITE, Treasurer. H. N. OTIS, Secretary. Endorsed—Pay to the order of Fredk A. Lane. B. V spencer, Cashier. Fredk A. Lane. George Wilcox.

No. 9460. NEW YORK, Feby 12th, 1872. TENTH NATIONAL BANK, 348 Broadway, cor. Leonard street. Pay to the order of B. W. Spencer, Cashier, Three J. D. WHITE, Treasurer H. N. OTIS, Secretary.

No. 9461. NEW YORK, Feby 12th, 1872. TENTH NATIONAL BANK. 348 Broadway, cor. Leonard street. Pay to the order of B. W. Spencer, Cashier, Three J. D. WHITE, Treasurer H. N. OTIS, Secretary.

TENTH NATIONAL BANK, 348 Broadway, cor. Leonard street. Pay to the order of B. W. Spencer, Cashier, Seve ndred and fifty Dollars. J. D. WHITE, Treasurer. H. N. OTIS, Secretary. Endorsed-Pay to the order of Fredk A. Lane. B.

No. 9463, NEW YORK, Feby 12th, 1872. TENTH NATIONAL BANK. 348 Broadway, cor. Leonard street, Pay to the order of Fredk. A. Lane Three hon Pay to the order of F. L. A. dred and seventy-five Dollars.

Sith. J. D. WHIRE, Treasurer.

H. N. Otts, Secretary.

-Fredk. A. Lane. George Wile "There," said Mr. Lane, as the checks disap-peared in my pocket; "now you see we are in earnest. Every two weeks we will pay like amounts

CONTINUED ON TENTH PAGE.